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Agenda items 12, 52, 106, 107, 108 and 110

Prevention of armed conflict

Sustainable development

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the Permanent Representative of the countr¸ presiding over the GUUAM groups of countries, I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the communiqué of the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM States (see annex I) and the joint statement of the sixth GUUAM-United States of America ministerial meeting (see annex II) both of which were held in New York on 16 September 2005.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 52, 106, 107, 108 and 110.

(*Signed*) Vsevolod **Grigore**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM States

New York, 16 September 2005

On 16 September 2005, the tenth meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM States was held in New York in the margins of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine took part in the meeting. A meeting of the participants with the delegation of the United States of America was held later that day.

The Council reviewed the decisions of the GUUAM Summit of Heads of State, held on 22 April 2005 in Chisinau, and noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in realization of the Chisinau declaration, "For the sake of democracy, stability and development".

The Council also reviewed the decisions taken at its ninth meeting, held on 21 April 2005 in Chisinau. It was agreed that the transformation of GUUAM into an international organization, including the creation of the GUUAM secretariat on the basis of the GUUAM information office in Kyiv, and the development of a GUUAM partnership institution are of utmost importance for achievement of the goals envisaged in the Chisinau declaration.

The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the second and third meetings of the GUUAM Parliamentary Assembly, held, respectively, on 28 May 2005 in Yalta and on 8 September 2005 in New York. They expressed their confidence that the GUUAM Parliamentary Assembly would become an effective instrument of parliamentary diplomacy at the regional and European levels, aimed at assisting in creating common space for strengthening democracy, increasing security and deepening economic, scientific, cultural and other fields of cooperation in the GUUAM region. In addition, the Ministers appreciated the organization of the meetings of the specialized committees of the GUUAM Parliamentary Assembly in Chisinau on 27 September 2005.

Examining the implementation of the GUUAM programme of work for 2005, the Council took note of the reports of the third meeting of the Steering Committee on Trade and Transportation Facilitation (Baku, 12 July 2005), the Working Group on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking (Baku, 25 July 2005) and the Working Group on Trade and Economic Development (Kyiv, 30 and 31 August 2005).

The Ministers took note of the protocol of the first meeting of the group of experts on the elaboration of statutory documents of the organization to be established on the basis of GUUAM, held on 30 and 31 August 2005 in Kyiv.

Praising the information provided by Ukraine about accreditation of the GUUAM information office in Kyiv, the Council requested the Ukrainian side to take the necessary steps in order to make the office fully operational.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the increased cooperation of the GUUAM group of countries in combating terrorism and organized crime. They welcomed the high level of cooperation achieved in the first phase of the anti-drug operation "Harmony", which was held by the GUUAM States in cooperation with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) Centre and with the assistance of the United States of America.

Appreciating the high-level cooperation between GUUAM and the United States, the Ministers underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation in the project on trade and transport facilitation as well as the project on the creation of the GUUAM virtual centre and the Interstate Information Management System (VC/IIMS).

The Council took note with interest of the information provided by the Republic of Moldova about the creation of the Centre on Combating Human Trafficking with the assistance of the United States. The agreement on initiative between the Republic of Moldova and the United States Government was signed in Chisinau on 6 September 2005.

The Council highly appreciated the active support of the Government of the United States to the GUUAM initiatives, involving experts from Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania and Romania, especially in the field of trade and transportation and combating terrorism/organized crime.

The Ministers were pleased to note the increasing interest in the GUUAM group on the part of other international organizations and States. To this end, they agreed to develop the partnership relations with those interested parties, including through adoption of the statute on the status of the partners of GUUAM. They welcomed the participation of the Republic of Moldova, as the chairing State in GUUAM, in the meeting of the Visegrad Group.

The Council reiterated the interest of GUUAM in establishing cooperation with the European Union in fields of mutual interest.

The Ministers evaluated positively the development of cooperation of the participating States of GUUAM within international organizations, in particular, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Stressing the necessity of further developing economic cooperation, the Ministers supported the Georgian initiative to hold the second GUUAM economic forum on 21 and 22 November 2005, in Tbilisi.

Guided by the relevant provisions of the Chisinau declaration on the importance of intensifying the joint efforts of the GUUAM States on the settlement of conflicts in the GUUAM region, the Ministers welcomed the initiative of Azerbaijan to hold the first expert meeting on this issue in Baky in the end of October 2005.

The Council decided to submit to the attention of the next summit of the GUUAM Heads of State the declaration of Uzbekistan on withdrawal from GUUAM and to propose that an appropriate decision be made.

The Council welcomed the willingness of Ukraine to assume the chairmanship of GUUAM in 2006.

The Council took a decision to organize the eleventh meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM States within the margins of the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of OSCE in Slovenia in December 2005.

Annex II to the letter dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement of the sixth GUUAM-United States of America ministerial meeting

New York
United Nations General Assembly
16 September 2005

On 16 September 2005, the sixth consecutive ministerial meeting of GUUAM-United States of America was held in New York on the margins of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The GUUAM Ministers for Foreign Affairs and United States Assistant Secretary of State, Dan Fried, discussed a wide range of issues, including cooperation between the two parties and progress in the implementation of the GUUAM-United States of America framework programme. The participants focused on the accomplishments of the GUUAM group since the last GUUAM-United States meeting, held on 22 April 2005 in Chisinau.

The Ministers welcomed the development of the United States-GUUAM framework projects. Since the Chisinau Summit, the United States sponsored Euro-Atlantic Advisory Team has been assisting the GUUAM group of countries in implementing the GUUAM Virtual Centre on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Other Dangerous Types of Crime and the GUUAM Interstate Information Management System (VC/IIMS) and Trade and Transport Facilitation projects. In July, the GUUAM organization held meetings of the Working Group on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking and the Steering Committee on Trade and Transport Facilitation to further coordinate the development of the national structures for implementing the two projects.

During the first two weeks of September, the GUUAM group of countries completed the second phase of the "Operation Harmony" counter-narcotics operation in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Centre of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the first phase of the trade and transport facilitation border reform process was initiated with the start of assessment missions carried out by United States and Lithuanian customs advisers.

The Ministers also recognized the importance of further development of the two projects. Over the next six months, the GUUAM group of countries expect to plan and develop law enforcement operations for countering the trafficking in narcotics and the trafficking in persons in the region. By the time of the November meeting of the Working Group on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, the GUUAM group of countries will have completed their inter-agency offices for the Virtual Centre and Interstate Information Management System and will continue the development of the regional task force structure that will conduct additional law enforcement exercises.

As part of the trade and transport facilitation project, the GUUAM group of countries will use the trade and transport facilitation border assessment to develop a regional training programme to address gaps in their ability to develop the best international practices at the region's key ports of entry.

Assistant Secretary of State Fried commended GUUAM on jointly drafting and adopting the regional strategy and action plans for two projects developed under the GUUAM-United States framework programme:

- The Trade And Transport Facilitation Project of the GUUAM States
- The GUUAM Virtual Centre and Interstate Information Management System (VC/IIMS).

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the United States Government for providing technical and advisory assistance in the development of the draft documents during their experts meetings in Kyiv and Baku. The two sides affirmed the importance of urgent implementation of the trade and transport facilitation and VC/IIMS projects. The United States Department of State expressed its continued commitment to supporting the next steps taken by GUUAM to implement both projects.

The GUUAM States expressed their interest and intention to cooperate with the European Union in the sphere of implementation of the projects laid down within the GUUAM framework. The United States also welcomed the engagement of the European Union in the group's activities and underlined the importance of the support of the European Union in implementing GUUAM projects and programmes. The willingness to further proceed with the dialogue within the format of the GUUAM-European Union and GUUAM-European Union-United States contacts was declared a priority.

The participants agreed that terrorism represents one of the most dangerous threats to international peace and stability today. In this regard, the implementation of the GUUAM VC/IIMS projects, with the assistance of the United States Department of State and the European Union, is of paramount importance.

The participants expressed their readiness to continue the political and practical support for the development of the GUUAM group of countries and their cooperation with the Euro-Atlantic community and its institutions.

The United States highly appreciated the fact that GUUAM had been granted observer status in the General Assembly of the United Nations and declared its intention to support the further development of GUUAM cooperative activities in the framework of the General Assembly.

Participants underlined the importance of establishing an inter-parliamentary body to provide legislative support to the framework programme.

It was agreed that the transformation of GUUAM into an international organization, including the creation of the GUUAM secretariat on the basis of the GUUAM information office in Kyiv and the development of a GUUAM partnership institution, are of utmost importance for the achievement of the goals envisaged in the Chisinau declaration.